



Community Action Northumberland - Rural Northumberland Community Energy Agents

OVERVIEW

Community Action Northumberland (CAN) supports and develops community groups, charities, Parish and Town Councils and other voluntary bodies. It provides advice, training, information and a range of rural support services, including village hall support, community-led planning and influence on rural issues, locally and nationally.

People who live in rural settings can be isolated and excluded from normal every day activities and services. Northumberland is one of the most rural areas in the country with a very scattered, and ageing, population. Many are identified as being in fuel poverty, living in poorly insulated properties, often without mains gas. Large areas remain without access to broadband and other services, which makes it difficult to spread essential information which could help and support people in need.

SOLUTION

CAN's initial series of energy roadshows had an average attendance of over 50 people, showing the demand for information and advice regarding energy efficiency.

Thanks to the funding, ten Voluntary Community Energy Agents from within CAN's 'Warm Hubs' programme worked with vulnerable residents, leading to greater independence and a better quality of life.

The Energy Agents were trained to provide information and access to a wide range of services including home safety, benefits advice and energy efficiency. This allowed beneficiaries to make informed choices about their present and future energy needs.

Roadshow events also helped to promote energy efficiency, joint fuel procurement, fuel debt advice and alternative energy options.

OUTCOMES

Details to be confirmed.

OBJECTIVES

To recruit ten Voluntary Community Energy Agents from within CAN's 'Warm Hubs' programme, who will work with vulnerable residents in the rural communities of Northumberland - leading to greater independence and a better quality of life.

MORE DETAILS BOX OUT

Project title: Rural Northumberland Community Energy Agents

Group name: Community Action Northumberland

Theme: Reducing energy

Area of benefit: Northumberland

Duration: 12 months